THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Agreement with railways for barrier-free-railway stations

1455. SHRI S. M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have signed any agreement with the Railway to help and advise in creating barrier-free-railways stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) to what extent Government have encouraged the NIOH, Kolkata to stress for creating a barrier-free atmosphere in the Railways;

(d) the details of the steps taken by NIOH, Kolkata in this regard; and

(e) the steps proposed to encourage NIOH, Kolkata to widen its work base on the creation of barrier-free-zones in the country for physically disabled people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Since creation of barrier-free environment in Railways comes under the purview of Ministry of Railways, no specific instructions have been issued to National Institute for the Orthopaedically Hadicapped (NIOH) in this regard.

Enlisting tribes in ST list

1456. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any requests are pending with Government from Andhra Pradesh to enlist some tribes in the ST list;

(b) if so, the details of such tribes; and

(c) the decision taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (c) This Ministry has received requests form the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and from other scurces for enlisting of 95 communities in the Scheduled Tribes list of the State. The proposals have been processed as per the approved modalities. The modalities require reports from three independent agencies namely the State Government, the Registrar-General of India and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes about the fulfillment of the stipulated criteria by the communities concerned. Only those proposals which have been agreed to by all the above three agencies are taken up for inclusion through amending legislation.

Status of Banjara tribe in Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal

†1457. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a large number of Banjara (nomadic tribe) inhabit Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal;

(b) whether Banjara hold the status of tribes in some States of the country; and

(c) if so, by when the Banjaras inhabiting Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal will be accorded the status of tribe?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBALAFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Banjara community has been notified as a Scheduled Tribe in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Orissa.

(c) The modalities for inclusion of any community as a Scheduled Tribes require reports from three independent agencies namely the State Government, the Registrar-General of India and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes about the fulfillment of the stipulated criteria by the community concerned. The proposals received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal are being processed as per the approved modalities. No definite time-frame can be indicated at this stage.

Amount for Post-Matric scholarships for ST students

1458. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have increased the amount for Post-matric scholarships for ST students from Rs. 65.49 crores in 2004-05 to Rs. 230.65 crores during 2005-06 to provide benefits to 7,80, 000 students;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.